

## Knowing my Purpose Pt 2

### I am Gifted by God

- Last week we spoke about how The Lord chose you and I to be His own special people according to **1Peter 2:9**, and how God has given to us everything that we need to accomplish His will in us. This week we will study that not only am I a chosen vessel to be used by The Lord, but also a gifted child that is empowered and emboldened for The Lord.
- In **Jn 9:4** Jesus said “**He must work the works of God while it is day, the night is coming when no one can work**”. Remember when Jesus said this it was a time without electricity, so nighttime was by necessity a time where less work could be done on account of the darkness. So the day was the most effective time to work, but it is also a limited time, because you only had but so many hours before it would be night when no one could work.
- Meaning there’s a time period from which the Lord has given the Gospel to go forth on earth in which people can accept it and be saved. The attitude “**work**” while there is still light to “**work**”, that Jesus expressed in this verse must also be our attitude as well, for as Jesus has a finite amount of time to “**work**” His earthly ministry, so do the body of Christ have a certain amount of time to use the gifts and talents the Lord has given to us.
- God by His grace has given to each of His children gifts in order to carry out His will on earth, in fact in discussing this in **1Cor 12:1-2** Paul says he didn’t want us to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts, in **V2** he reminds us that at one time we all were ignorant being carried away and led astray by dumb idols that didn’t have any eternal value whatsoever.
- Not only did Paul not want us to be ignorant about our gifts he also didn’t want us to confuse it with something that you already possessed like a talent. You see talent your born with, it was present at your natural birth, but spiritual gifts, they come from your new birth. One is used to instruct and entertain, while the other relates to building up the saints for spiritual growth and Christian service, so yes everyone in the body of Christ is gifted!
- **Eph 4:7** Paul says each believer has been given grace as a birthday present upon conversion > “**gift**”- is from the Greek word “**dorea**”, which refer to a birthday gift or gratuity, something given for services rendered. This means people won’t know this is what God gave you, until you use it to bless them, then they are so grateful for your service to them.
- **Eph 4:8**- has the same thing in mind when Paul says Jesus after dying on the cross ascended on high defeating both sin and death, and afterward gave “**gifts**” which means presents unto men. **Eph 4:11-12** tell us exactly what those presents were > Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, **V12** says why, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.

- **Eph 4:12-14** tells us for how long and for what purpose, until we come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, that will result in our spiritual maturity. As well as to keep us from wavering back and forth like a reed in the wind, being deceived by man and his deceptive words and schemes, as if we don't possess a foundation for us to grab hold of.
- This goes back to knowing who we are, the word "gift" comes from the Greek word Charis, where we get our English word "charisma" from. In the Christian community that can have a negative meaning, describing someone who is unlearned or unbiblical in their belief system, but that simply is not true. Webster's describes charisma as having the power or quality to lead or inspire, even a large number of people, when you think of yourself do you see yourself in these terms, most of us would say no, but God certainly does!
- **Mk 1:17** what did Jesus say that He would do for the disciples > make them fishers of men, this speaking about a man who before his conversion was named "**Levi**". In **Lk 5:27**- Jesus approaches him and tells him to follow Him, before his conversion he was expected to serve in some priestly capacity, you don't name someone Moses and expect them to be an atheist, so Levi had a built in expectation just in his name alone, yet there he is a tax collector, serving the Romans, making a profit off his people, instead of serving his people.
- Every Sabbath and every festival growing up Levi saw his people being robbed in the Temple, and he thought if I am going to be a thief and rob people I might as well get paid for it, so he joined the hated Romans, and became a man driven by greed, How many people wrong attitudes and perspectives have their roots in being disappointed?
- **Lk 5:28-29** its right here where Jesus steps in, in **Math 9:9** his own account, Mathew says where everyone else saw a tax collector, the scourge of his people, Jesus saw a man who was desperately in need of salvation. When you see people doing the wrong thing, going the wrong way, do you only see their sin, or do you see their need, only then can you see the person. Jesus tells him to do one thing "**follow Me**" this does two things.
- **1<sup>st</sup>** it deals with his disappointment, for years after witnessing hypocrisy he was drawn into a profession of stealing, but now Jesus tells him to take his eyes off those who will disappoint and look at Him, **2<sup>nd</sup>** obviously he has been looking for something to give himself to, and he doesn't mind if it costs him everything or he wouldn't have chosen to be a tax collector.
- Jesus now redirects that passion and tells him if you want something to abandon yourself to, something that will cost you everything, but instead of monetary gain, you will gain eternity, then here it is, come and follow Me! Levi's response, **He left all-mind, rose up-body, followed-soul and heart**, notice the order, often we want to rise up before we've left all. With toll booth and occupation now gone what does he do, throw a party, but not for himself, for his co-workers, his new name is "Mathew" which means gift of God.

- This gift of God now wants to give back, as greed is replaced by love, that is now his new passion. **Lk 7:29-30** the other tax collectors knowing Mathew's story are now apt to hear Jesus, and many of them came to surrender to the Lord as the man who only knew and gave disappointment has become a true fisher of men. How does this pertain to you?
- **Jn 14:12- "Most assuredly, those who believe in Jesus, the works that He did you will do also, and greater works than these you will do, because He goes to My Father"**. I didn't say this Jesus did, we know what scripture says about Jesus, healing the sick, preaching the truth, confronting the lies, setting people free, loving unconditionally. So charismatic, you certainly are if you are a Christian and you shouldn't be ashamed about it, as Go has given you His gifts to inspire people, build them up, and lead them out of bondage and into God's light.